



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Big Game Habitat Management on BLM Public Lands

Food for Big Game

Nutrient-rich shrubs, grasses, and young leafy plants called forbs usually provide the best forage (food) for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. Sometimes the quality of forage available on public lands can be improved through different kinds of habitat treatments. The BLM works with state wildlife agencies and other partners to improve big game habitats.

Healthy habitats help support healthy animals.



Since the inception of Secretarial Order 3362, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has improved more than 4.2 million acres of habitat in big game migration corridors and winter range.

Ways to Manage Habitat for Big Game

Mechanical Treatments

The removal of unwanted trees or shrubs with equipment such as chainsaws, bulldozers, or masticators.



Invasive Weed Removal

The removal of nonnative invasive vegetation through mechanical or chemical means.



Prescribed Fire

The removal of less productive vegetation through the introduction of human-initiated fire.

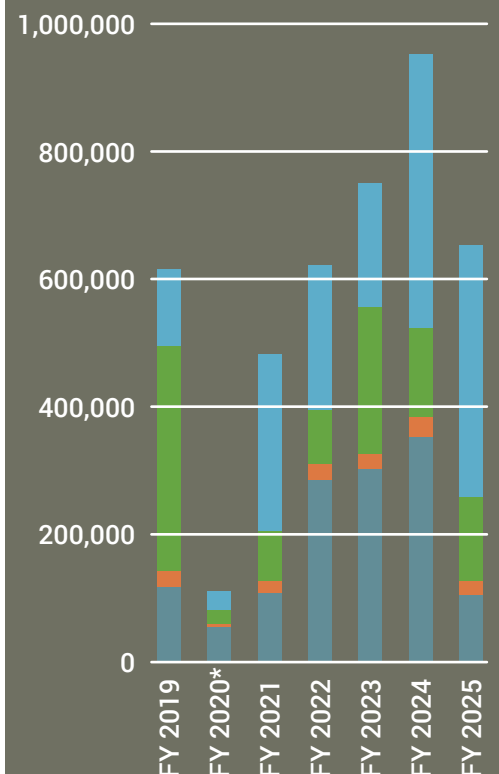


Seeding or Planting

Propagation of new vegetation through direct planting, especially in areas impacted by wildfire.



BIG GAME HABITAT PROJECTS CONDUCTED ON BLM PUBLIC LANDS (TOTAL ACRES)



*No data collected outside state-identified migration corridors.

Big Game Habitat

On BLM-managed public lands in the 11 western states (not including Alaska):

- Elk use 52 million acres
- Mule deer use 119 million acres
- Pronghorn use 75 million acres

Removing Barriers

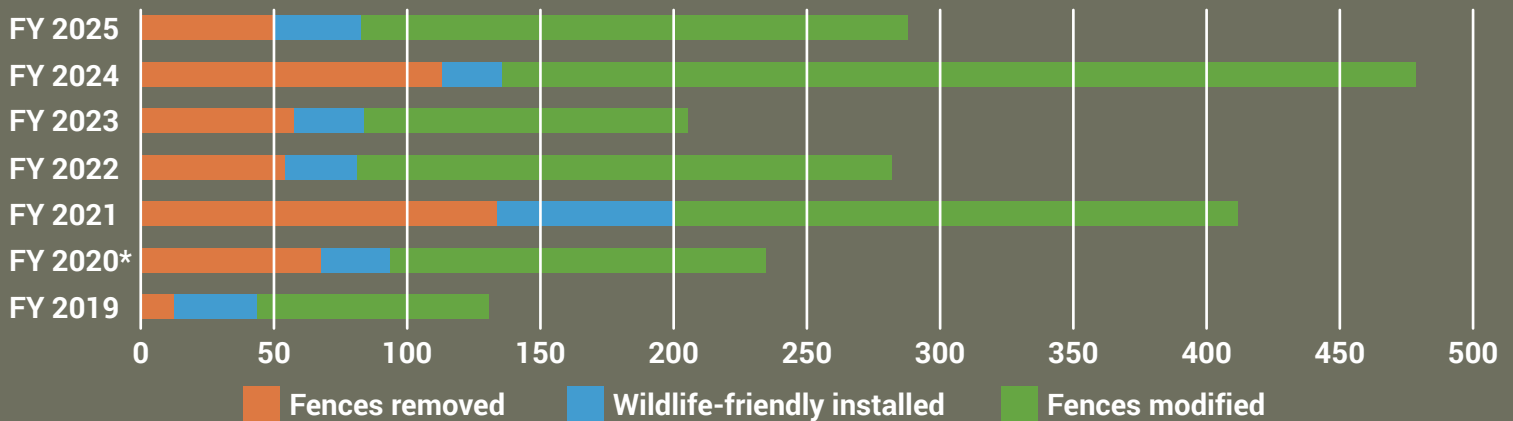
Big game and fencing: Species such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn rely on seasonal migrations to access food, water, and suitable habitat. Fences often create physical barriers that fragment habitat, disrupt migration routes, and cause injury or death through entanglement.

Wildlife-friendly fencing is beneficial for big game migration because it allows animals to move more freely across landscapes while still meeting land management needs.



Since the inception of Secretarial Order 3362, the BLM has improved more than 2,000 miles of fencing making it easier for big game migration.

BIG GAME MIGRATION FENCE PROJECTS CONDUCTED ON BLM PUBLIC LANDS (TOTAL MILES)



*No data collected outside state-identified migration corridors.

Fences are a critical and necessary component of BLM-managed lands. Besides marking property boundaries, they keep livestock in their assigned grazing allotments and facilitate prescribed grazing. If fences are constructed properly, both livestock and big game species can peacefully coexist on the landscape.

